

JULY 2018

Shepparton Water Service Area Fact Sheet

The Farm Water Program operated across the Goulburn Murray Water Service Area. This region encompasses a number of Water Service Committees (WSC). WSCs consist of customer representatives who advise and assist Water Authorities in understanding stakeholder issues, needs and concerns. This Fact Sheet outlines participation and involvement across the **Shepparton Water Service Area** in the Farm Water Program for all completed projects in all rounds 1 – 5.

SHEPPARTON WATER SERVICE AREA PROJECTS

PROJECTS	WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED
97 PROJECTS	9 GIGALITRES	\$19 MILLION

Background on the Farm Water Program

A Northern Victorian consortium secured \$170 million from the Australian Government’s On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (\$46 million); the Victorian Government’s NVIRP (\$16 million); the Victorian On Farm State Priority Projects initiative (\$43 million); and the Victorian Farm Modernisation Project (\$70 million). Administered through its Farm Water Program the program assisted irrigators to achieve water savings by improving on-farm irrigation systems. At least half the water saved was transferred to the Australian or Victorian governments for environmental purposes. Funding was released in rounds.

On-Farm Irrigation Improvements



- 618 of 622 projects completed with \$170 million funding
- 68,000 hectares of works including:
 - Laser Grading
 - Drainage Reuse
 - Micro Systems
 - Sprinkler Irrigation
 - Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation
 - Pipe and Riser Systems
 - Irrigation Scheduling
 - Farm Channel Upgrades
 - Automatic irrigation

Water Savings Generated



- 82 gigalitres water saved.
- 38 gigalitres retained on-farm for improved productivity.
- 43 gigalitres transferred to Australian and Victorian governments for environmental purposes.

Food Security



- Increased resilience in the face of climate change and Murray Darling Basin Plan.
- Higher value of production per megalitre used (estimated increase of \$48 million per year).
- Irrigators can maximise benefits of a modernised supply from the GMW Connections program.
- Significant increase in production, time and labour savings when irrigating.
- On-farm investment stimulated after years of drought and then flood.

Environmental



- More water is available to protect and restore river health.
- More efficient water delivery systems reduce groundwater accessions (by about 20 gigalitres per year) and nutrient run-off (by about 120 tonnes per year of nitrogen and phosphorus) and help address salinity and water table issues.

Regional Development



- With an average cost-benefit ratio of 1.4, the funding administered through the Farm Water Program is estimated to generate at least:
- \$48 million a year in economic benefits across the region;
 - 122 jobs; and
 - significant social and environmental benefits and a boost in industry confidence and co-investment.



¹ Depending on industry and technology- individual circumstances will vary.

Fact Sheet – Shepparton Water Service Area (continued)

The figures shown below relate to participation and involvement by irrigators across the Shepparton Water Service Area in the Farm Water Program for all completed projects in all rounds 1 – 5.

ROUNDS 1 – 5 (completed)			PROJECT BY INDUSTRY TYPE					
PROJECTS	TOTAL WATER SAVINGS	FUNDED	DAIRY	BEEF	SHEEP & BEEF	GRAINS	MIXED	OTHER
97 PROJECTS	9 GIGALITRES	\$19 MILLION	33 	13 	6 	25 	17	3

PROJECTS BY IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Laser Grading – Hectares	2529	Pipe & Riser Systems – Hectares	632
Drainage Reuse – Hectares	1748	Irrigation Scheduling – Hectares	190
Farm Channel Upgrades – Kilometres	0	Gravity Channel Surface Irrigation – Hectares	2741
Sprinkler Irrigation	246	Micro Systems	84
Automation*	91.3*	*with water savings generated	



Participant Profile: Albert Qose

Property Location	Congupna
Property Size	38 hectares
Industry	Beef
Project	Installation of Pipes and Risers
Project Timeframe	6 months
Water Savings	76ML



Albert was interested in earlier Farm Water Program funding rounds but thought it beneficial to “wait to see how it all went” before applying.

Years ago Albert and wife Sue had bought an out paddock to run a herd of beefers. “We had to do a lot of work, we couldn’t water it,” he said. The works involved installing pumps and a re-use dam, laser grading and fencing. “It ended up being pretty efficient and we now run a 100-head of Angus-cross for fattening up and trade,” Albert said. “We’ve seen great time savings already. Instead of 36 hours it took 24 hours because we no longer have to wait for the channels to fill. They used to take a couple of hours to fill. Now I start the pump and the water is there straight away - and it gets to every corner of the farm.”

As well as getting a “few hours of extra sleep” now due to easier watering, Albert is also getting greater use of his 3500L re-use dam. “With the old set up we could only irrigate one side of the farm, now we can pump from it all over the property. Without a good and efficient water supply, what have we got? These types of programs are good for farming, good for the sustainability of the industry and mean we can adapt more easily to (weather and market) challenges,” he said.

For more information on the Farm Water Program, visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au.